



Fisheries Program Update

November 2,
2020



Why we're here today

Evaluation of Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife as hatchery operator and monitoring and evaluation contractor

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2020 Adult Fish Returns to Date

Thad Mosey

Hatchery Operator Analysis

November 18, 2019 - Board directs staff to:

“evaluate alternative contracting opportunities to operate hatchery facilities to ensure the District is continuing to receive quality results while paying a fair and reasonable price for services”

Hatchery Operator Analysis

Staff identified six criteria that would:

- 1) Provide a cost-effective solution for the District
- 2) Meet the hatchery rearing criteria and outcomes identified in NOAA Fisheries Section 10 Permits and hatchery effectiveness monitoring and evaluation plans created by HCP Hatchery Committees

Criteria

- Fish quality
- Cost
- Endangered Species Act (ESA) compliance
- Ease of implementation
- ESA fish handling/diversity
- Ability to influence biological outcomes

What is Fish Quality?

- ✓ Size at release
- ✓ Fish uniformity
- ✓ Quality of fins
- ✓ Pathogen free

Results

- Top three options from multiple alternatives
 - private contractor, District self-perform, WDFW
- Costs roughly comparable between District and WDFW
- Analysis highlighted that fish quality is not optimal and we need to better influence biological outcomes

Next Steps

- Focus on improving fish quality and communication over the next contract year
- Request WDFW to develop quality control plan with measurable outcomes to continue evaluating effectiveness as hatchery operator
- Execute contract amendment with WDFW for 2021 Services (December 7)
 - Proposed budget 1.15 percent decrease compared to 2020

Hatchery Monitoring and Evaluation

November 18, 2019 - Board directs staff to:

“evaluate alternative contracting opportunities for monitoring and evaluating the District’s hatchery programs to ensure the District is continuing to receive quality results while paying a fair and reasonable price for services”

Hatchery Monitoring and Evaluation

Similar criteria as identified for hatchery operations that would:

- 1) Provide a cost-effective solution for the District
- 2) Result in collecting quality data in an efficient manner to inform the hatchery program

M&E Contractor Selection History

- Prior to 2014 – WDFW conducted the majority of M&E tasks
- 2014 – Restructured M&E Program and advertised RFP
- 2014 – District staff conducts spring Chinook surveys instead of WDFW due to costs and importance of data for ESA listed fish

M&E Contractor Selection History (cont'd)

- 2019 – District conducts in-hatchery pre-release sampling due to high proposed costs from WDFW
- 2020 – District contracts with BioAnalysts to conduct steelhead PIT tagging at OLAFT due to high proposed costs from WDFW

Results

- Used similar criteria developed for hatchery operator analysis
- Comparable scores between WDFW, District self-perform, private contractor
- Costs difficult to compare

Current division of M&E provides good value in terms of cost and good quality in terms of data

<i>M&E Objective</i>	M&E Task	Wenatchee Spring Chinook^a	Wenatchee Steelhead	Wenatchee Summer Chinook Salmon^a	Chelan Falls Summer Chinook Salmon	Wenatchee Sockeye Salmon^b
<i>Aquaculture monitoring</i>	Stock assessment and broodstock collection	WDFW	WDFW	WDFW	WDFW	NA
	In-hatchery PIT-tagging	CPUD	CPUD	CPUD	CPUD	NA
	Pre-release monitoring	CPUD	CPUD	CPUD	CPUD	NA
	Smolt survival analyses	BioAnalysts	BioAnalysts	BioAnalysts	BioAnalysts	BioAnalysts
	In-hatchery spawning data	WDFW	WDFW	WDFW	WDFW	WDFW
<i>Juvenile monitoring</i>	Smolt trap operation	WDFW	WDFW	WDFW	WDFW	WDFW
	Parr electrofishing	WDFW	NA	NA	NA	NA
<i>Adult monitoring</i>	Spawning surveys	CPUD	WDFW	WDFW	BioAnalysts	NA
	Mark/recapture escapement	NA	NA	NA	NA	CPUD
	PIT-tag steelhead/OLAFT	NA	BioAnalysts	NA	NA	NA
	Adult management	WDFW	WDFW	WDFW	WDFW	WDFW
<i>Data analyses and reporting</i>	Data management	CPUD WDFW	WDFW BioAnalysts	WDFW	WDFW BioAnalysts	WDFW CPUD
	Data analyses	CPUD WDFW	WDFW BioAnalysts	WDFW	WDFW BioAnalysts	WDFW CPUD
	Reporting	CPUD WDFW BioAnalysts	WDFW BioAnalysts	WDFW BioAnalysts	BioAnalysts	WDFW CPUD BioAnalysts

Next Steps

- 2020-2021 – District developing new methodology for steelhead escapement. Goal is to eliminate costly surveys conducted by WDFW and provide a more reliable and accurate data set
- Continue to evaluate methodologies and appropriate entity to conduct activity
- Execute contract amendment with WDFW for 2021 work (December 7)
 - Proposed budget includes 4.3 percent increase compared to 2020

Adult Fish Returns – Rock Island

Species	2020 Count	2019 Count	10 -Year Average (2009-2019)	% of Average at RI	% of Average at BON
Spring Chinook	7,595	8,788	17,413	44%	39%
Summer Chinook	70,654*	41,090	59,404	*	*
Fall Chinook	11,849*	10,706	15,195	*	*
Steelhead	6,618*	4,091	8,916	*	*
Sockeye	280,435	50,458	212,707	132%	111%
Coho	26,962*	9,551	10,832	*	*
Lamprey	480**	1,067	3,943	12%	34%
Bull Trout	19	24	60	40%	---

*Counts still in progress, numbers current through 10/18/2020

**GCPUD trapped and transported lamprey and passed them above RI



Questions or Comments?

